



Thomas Hart Benton: Mural Painter

Thomas Hart Benton
with his wife Rita,
daughter, Jessie, and
dog, Jake

Thomas Hart Benton was an American artist. He lived a long time ago. He traveled a lot. He walked. He took trains. He drove cars. He rode on boats.

Tom learned from Diego Rivera and other artists. Diego was a **mural** painter. **Murals** are painted on walls. This **mural** shows the history of Mexico.



Diego Rivera, 1929-1930, *The Legend of Quetzalcoatl*, fresco, Palacio Nacional de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

Tom's **murals** show us places he saw.



Tom grew up in Missouri. This **mural** shows Missouri people and places.

Thomas Hart Benton, 1936, detail of *A Social History of the State of Missouri*, murals in the Missouri Capitol Building, Jefferson City, MO

Later, he lived in New York.
See the tall buildings?

Thomas Hart Benton, 1930, detail of *America Today*, murals for the New School for Social Research, New York, tempera and oil (now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC)



He painted a farmer in Indiana. What tells you this **mural** is old?

Thomas Hart Benton, 1933, detail of *A Social History of the State of Indiana*, murals for the Chicago Worlds Fair (now at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, IN)

